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DAN F. ARNETT
CHIEF OF STAFF

September 12, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Charles L.A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

SEP 13 2005
DOCKETING DEPT.

2005-271-C

Re: Motion Waiving Qualifications for Lifeline/Linkup For Victims
Hurricane Katrina Pending Action by the FCC

SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

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Dear Mr. Terreni:

The Office of Regulatory Staff respectfully files this Motion for a waiver of certain qualifications of the Linkup and Lifeline programs such that the victims of Hurricane Katrina may be eligible to receive this assistance.

The Linkup and Lifeline programs were established in order to enable low income households to subscribe to local exchange service by reducing initial service and installation connection charges as well as monthly fees such that basic local telephone service can be made available to all South Carolina residents. Given the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina to the citizens of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, the state of South Carolina has received many displaced persons who have suffered a great loss and currently do not have the economic means to reestablish their lives.

Pursuant to various orders established in Docket No. 87-625-C, the Commission established certain criteria in order to qualify for the Linkup and Lifeline programs including receiving some form of low income assistance such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, or Temporary Aid to Needy Families. Similarly, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established qualification criteria for Lifeline and Linkup at the federal level. It is ORS' understanding that the FCC may consider expanding, on a temporary basis, the conditions necessary to participate in this program to include those victims of this unparalleled natural disaster. Currently, hundreds of thousands of people

have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Administration to receive federal disaster assistance.

ORS would respectfully request by way of this motion that should the FCC expand its eligibility requirements for Lifeline and Linkup, the SC Public Service Commission expand its eligibility requirements in a commensurate manner such that the victims of Hurricane Katrina may also be eligible to receive this aid. Should the program be expanded, ORS will work with FEMA, the Department of Social Services, and other relevant state and federal agencies to ensure that the purpose behind these programs is being met and that the appropriate persons are receiving the necessary help. We would also ask that the Commission decide this matter on an expedited basis and place this matter on the Commission's next meeting agenda so that we may quickly respond should the FCC elect to expand the eligibility criteria.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin P. Mustian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin P. Mustian

cc: Parties of Record to Docket No. 1997-239-C (Universal Service Fund)

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C

IN RE:

Establishment of a Universal Service Fund)	
In Order to Comply with Act 354 Which)	
Became Law May 29, 1996 (All LEC's Are)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Automatically a Party))	
_____)	

This is to certify that I, Rena Grant, an employee with the Office of Regulatory Staff, have this date served one (1) copy of the **Motion Waiving Qualifications for Lifeline/Linkup for Victims of Hurricane Katrina Pending Action by the FCC** in the above-referenced matter to the person(s) named below by causing said copy to be deposited in the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and affixed thereto, and addressed as shown below:

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Rena Grant

September 12, 2005
Columbia, South Carolina